

12. SCOTTISH DRAFT BUDGET 2022 AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE SETTLEMENT 2022/23

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Property Services providing an update in relation to the Scottish Draft Budget presented to the Scottish Parliament on 9 December 2021, and the local government finance settlement for 2022/23, as published in Finance Circular 9/2021 dated 20 December 2021.

It was recommended that Council Executive :-

1. Notes the issue of the Scottish Draft Budget 2022/23, which includes Scottish Government departmental spending plans for 2022/23;
2. Notes the outcome of the local government finance settlement in respect of revenue and capital funding for 2022/23;
3. Notes that the anticipated revenue grant funding for West Lothian contained in the settlement, including assumed amounts for recurring funding yet to be distributed, is £384.142 million;
4. Notes that COSLA has described the budget as a bad deal for communities and warned that serious financial challenges in key service areas lie ahead for Scotland's councils;
5. Notes the net reduction in core revenue funding to the council since 2014/15 and the significant savings that have been required since 2007/08;
6. Agrees that the Head of Finance and Property Services updates the 2022/23 revenue budget report taking account of the outcome of the finance settlement and latest circumstances and updates the capital programme taking account of latest funding position and circumstances;
7. Agrees that the uncommitted General Fund balance of £2.261 million is retained until the council's 2022/23 budget is reported to Council in February 2022 to allow work to be undertaken to update the 2022/23 revenue budget model;
8. Agrees that the Head of Finance and Property Services should keep the position regarding Scottish Government funding under review and report to elected members on any developments.

Motion

To approve the terms of the report

- Moved by the Chair and seconded by Councillor Kirsteen Sullivan

Amendment

“It is recommended that Council Executive

1. Notes the issue of the Scottish Draft Budget 2022/23, which includes Scottish Government departmental spending plans for 2022/23;
 2. Notes the outcome of the local government finance settlement in respect of revenue and capital funding for 2022/23;
 3. Notes that the anticipated revenue grant funding for West Lothian contained in the settlement, including assumed amounts for recurring funding yet to be distributed, is £384.142 million, which is a cash increase of over £19Million from last year.
 4. Notes that since 2018/19, West Lothian Council has received an additional £53Million in Revenue Grant Funding.
 5. Agrees that the Head of Finance and Property Services updates the 2022/23 revenue budget report taking account of the outcome of the finance settlement and latest circumstances and updates the capital programme taking account of latest funding position and circumstances;
 6. Agrees that the Council retains its Reserves at £2M till the Councils 22/23 budget is reported to Council in February 2022 and that the additional, added this year, £261,000 is utilised as a contingency to allow this Council to help with any additional funding identified by Care and Repair Scotland for West Lothian, alongside the possibility of the Council's Building Services setting aside a team to help, with the installation of linked smoke alarms to conform to the new legislation.
 7. Agrees that the Head of Finance and Property Services should keep the position regarding Scottish Government funding under review and report to elected members on any developments.”
- Moved by Councillor Frank Anderson and seconded by Councillor Carl John

A roll call vote was taken. The result was as follows :-

Motion

Harry Cartmill
Tom Conn
David Dodds
Damian Doran-Timson
Lawrence Fitzpatrick
Peter Heggie
Chris Horne
Charles Kennedy
Cathy Muldoon
George Paul

Amendment

Frank Anderson
Carl John

Kirsteen Sullivan

Decision

Following a vote, the motion was successful by 11 votes to 2 and it was agreed accordingly.